

The Membership of Forest City Singers

Scott Alford, *baritone*
Alice Bewie, *soprano*
Chris Brandt, *baritone*
Jason Chance, *tenor*
Linda Frank, *alto*
Jason Fuh, *bass*
Alex Jamieson, *tenor*
Nancy Jamieson, *alto*
Tom Johns, *tenor*
Ger Kadis, *tenor*

Majorie Kitchell, *alto*
Mac McVeen, *baritone*
Patricia Parsons, *soprano*
Bonnie Savage, *soprano*
Cecilia Smith, *soprano*
Keith Sykora, *bass*
Brad Valtman, *baritone*
Diana Vargo, *alto*
David Wittmer, *tenor*
Holly Zwolinski, *alto*

A brief history of Forest City Singers

Forest City Singers was founded in 1993 by Virginia Wieland-Mast, following a summer of 1992 choral seminar in France with Robert Shaw. The group began with a double quartet of experienced singers gleaned from the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus and the Cleveland Opera Chorus. Since that time FCS has more than doubled in size, its members having sung in University Chorale, Cleveland Choral Arts Society, Cleveland Messiah Singers, The Singers Club, and Western Reserve Chorale, as well as area churches and synagogues. Several members are music teachers and active performers as soloists in the Cleveland area.

The repertoire includes 16th and 17th century English, French and German madrigals; German lieder; chamber oratorios; spirituals, and Broadway show tunes. Christmas music not often heard is also a specialty.

Virginia Wieland-Mast

Virginia is a graduate of the Eastman school of Music, having received a Bachelor's degree of Music (BM) in Voice and music education with high honors. She earned a Master of Music degree (MM) from the Cleveland Institute of Music, in Voice.

Virginia worked with Robert Shaw for nine years, singing and studying. Another nine years were spent singing with the Cleveland Opera. She has performed as a soloist and assistant choir director since college at several area churches.

She is also active as a voice teacher and coach. Virginia is an active member of Cecilian Musical Club of Cleveland, and is a past president. She is the current director and conductor of the Cleveland Messiah Chorus which will give its 91st annual performance on Nov 18 at Grace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights.

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FCS repertoire, performance history, performance photographs, selected recordings and printed program masters may be viewed on our web page: <http://forestcitysingers.com>. Ms. Wieland-Mast can also be reached by e-mail: ginhelm@ameritech.net

program: R.J. Sprafka

Ah. LOVE!

Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7:30 PM
Judson Retirement Communities
Judson Park on Ambleside
Cleveland, Ohio, (University Circle)

Friday, May 17, 2013 at 1:00 PM
Cecilian Musical Club,
Mast Residence
2613 Lander Rd, Pepper Pike, Ohio

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 7:30 PM
Breckenridge Retirement Community
36855 Ridge Road
Willoughby, Ohio



Virginia Wieland-Mast
Founder and Director

Ah. Cove!



Liebeslieder Walzen

David Wittmer, *tenor*
Marguerite Gilbert and Reta Adler, *duo pianists*

Five Hebrew Love Songs

Eric Whitacre

I. A picture is engraved in my heart;
Moving between light and darkness:
A sort of silence envelopes your body,
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

II. Light bride
She is all mine,
And lightly
She will kiss me!

III. Mostly, • said the roof to the sky
"the distance between you and I is endlessness;
But a while ago two came up here,
and only one centimeter was left between us.

IV. What snow!
Like little dreams
Falling from the sky

V. He was full of tenderness;
She was very hard.
And as much as she tried to stay thus,
Simply, and with no good reason,
He took her into himself,
And set her down
in the softest softest place.

Hila Plitmann



All the Things you Are

Jerome Kern

I'm Afraid to Come Home in the Dark

Ribe Danmark

Jason Chance, *tenor*
Jason Fuh, *bass*
David Wittmer, *tenor*

Embraceable You

George Gershwin

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS (Notes)

In the spring of 1996, my great friend and brilliant violinist Friedemann Eichhorn invited me and my girlfriend-at-the-time Hila Plitmann (a soprano) to give a concert with him in his home city of Speyer, Germany. We had all met that year as students at the Juilliard School, and were inseparable.

Because we were appearing as a band of traveling musicians, 'Friedy' asked me to write a set of troubadour songs for piano, violin and soprano. I asked Hila (who was born and raised in Jerusalem) to write me a few 'postcards' in her native tongue, and a few days later she presented me with these exquisite and delicate Hebrew poems. I set them while we vacationed in a small skiing village in the Swiss Alps, and we performed them for the first time a week later in Speyer.

In 2001, the University of Miami commissioned me to adapt the songs for SATB chorus and string quartet, and the Efroni Choir in Israel commissioned me to adapt them for SA, violin and piano, leaving me now with five (!) different versions of the same work: SATB and string quartet; SATB, violin, and piano; SA and string quartet; SA violin, and piano; and the original soprano, violin, and piano. The choral parts are exactly the same for the different accompaniments, so that if the choir wants to perform the version with string quartet, the chorus can sing from the pianoviolin score and the conductor can lead from the quartet version.

Each of the songs captures a moment that Hila and I shared together. "Kala Kalla" (which means 'light bride') was a pun I came up with while she was first teaching me Hebrew. The bells at the beginning of "Eyze Shelleg" are the exact pitches that awakened us each morning in Germany as they rang from a nearby cathedral.

These songs are profoundly personal for me, born entirely out of my new love for this soprano, poet, and now my beautiful wife, Hila Plitmann.

Eric Whitacre